



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: 651-602-7900 Fax: 651-602-7914

Transmitted via Email

January 24, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-21

SUBJECT: LTP – CSP – ADDITIONAL WATER QUALITY GUIDANCE FOR THE 2005
CSP

ACTIONS DUE AS NOTED BELOW

Purpose. To provide information on the CSP eligibility criteria for water quality criteria in the 2005 sign-up.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

ACTIONS REQUIRED BY CSP WATERSHED COORDINATORS

The national office has developed a new procedure to determine the water quality portion of the CSP eligibility evaluation. This 8-step procedure is explained by Phil McLoud in the PowerPoint presentation located at <http://my.nrcs.usda.gov>. (Click on the “PROGRAMS” tab and the presentation is located at the left corner at the bottom of the page, entitled “Water_Quality_on_Cropland_1-19-05.ppt”.)

Each watershed coordinator needs to convene a small technical group with knowledge of their watershed’s resource condition and;

- Review this PowerPoint presentation.
- Using local knowledge, known water quality reference materials, and your knowledge of the FOTG water resource “quality criteria”; document the water quality resource concerns for your watershed on the attached template.
- If the watershed is not uniform and different water quality resource concerns exist in different geographic locations determine how to best subdivide the watershed and identify each unique area. Do not subdivide watersheds into more than 3 separate areas. **By February 11**, complete the attached template for each unique subwatershed area identified and return the template to Leah Moore, CSP Coordinator.
- The state office CSP team will develop a watershed specific CSP water quality eligibility checklist based on the water quality resource concerns identified. As much as possible, common resource concerns will have consistent eligibility criteria throughout the state.
- **By March 1**, each identified watershed (subwatershed) area will be evaluated to determine the predominant; soils, crops produced and typical tillage operations being

used. Based on that this information develop generic RUSLE2 evaluations which will also provide generic SCI values.

- **By March 1**, develop a list of resource concerns that can be used by applicants to qualify for Tier 2.
- **By March 1**, develop a prioritized list of resource concerns that will qualify applicants for Tier 3. With limited technical assistance we may not be able to fully assess each Tier 3 application for all of the SWAPA resource concerns.

Direct your questions on the information in this bulletin to Paul Flynn, SRC.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: AO.ASTC
CSP Watershed Coordinators
DCs in 2005 CSP Watershed
AO.ARC
MN.GRAZE
SO.ECS
SO CSP TEAM